

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 MCT-01 OPR-02 CA-01 SCS-06
SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05 PC-05 COME-00 ACDA-12
/098 W

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O 281600Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7624
SECDEF
DIRNSA FT. MEADE, MD.
CINCPAC
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS KABUL 3279

CINCPAC FOR POLAD
ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI, TEHRAN ALSO FOR USDAOs

SITREP 15

E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AF
SUBJECT: MILITARY CONFLICT IN KABUL

1. AT 1845 ON APRIL 28, RADIO AFGHANISTAN ANNOUNCED THAT "ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WORKERS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND MEMBERS OF TRANSPORT ORGANIZATIONS ARE TO GO TO WORK ON APRIL 29 AT THE USUAL 0700 OPENING TIME -- AND CARRY ON THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS OF THE MILITARY REVOLUTIONARY FORCES." COMMENT: THIS IS ANOTHER OF THE NEW REGIME'S ENDEAVORS TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF NORMALCY. END COMMENT

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2. AT 1910, THE REGIME ANNOUNCED THAT TONIGHT'S CURFEW WILL BEGIN AT 2200. (LAST NIGHT'S CURFEW STARTED AT 2000.)

3. WE HEARD A REPORT THAT AT 0800 THIS MORNING, THE YUGOSLAV AND INDIAN AMBASSADORS WERE SUMMONED BY THE NEW REGIME TO AN 1100 MEETING AT THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. IF THIS REPORT

IS CORRECT -- AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO VERIFY THIS AT THIS TIME, THE TOPIC OF THE MEETING MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO BE HELD FROM MAY 6 TO 10 IN KABUL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE HAS BEEN A GERMAN RADIO REPORT WHICH STATED THAT THE NEW REGIME HAS DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE CONFERENCE. RADIO AFGHANISTAN HAS SAID NOTHING ABOUT THIS. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SOME LEADERS OF THE NEW REGIME MIGHT POSSIBLY DESIRE TO HOLD THE CONFERENCE TO PROMOTE ITS IMAGE (THE REGIME HAS ALREADY ENDORSED THE PRINCIPLE OF NONALIGNMENT) IT IS AT THIS TIME HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN GET THEIR ACT -- AND CAPITAL CITY -- IN SHAPE BY MAY 6. PERHAPS A DELAY IS IN THE WORKS. END COMMENT.

4. CRITICIZING THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF THE OVERTHROWN DAOUD REGIME, RADIO AFGHANISTAN HAS CITED "GIVING ELECTRIC SHOCKS, PULLING OUT FINGERNAILS, POURING BOILING OIL ONNAKED BODIES, AND OTHER UNSEEN TORTURES WHICH WERE THE INVENTION OF THE ROTTEN REPUBLICAN REGIME." COMMENT: WE HOPE THAT THIS MEANS THAT THE NEW REGIME WILL BE SETTING HIGHER HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS FOR ITSELF. JUDGING FROM WHAT WE SAW AND HEARD NEAR THE EMBASSY, WE SUSPECT THAT SEVERAL SUMMARY EXECUTIONS OCCURRED THROUGHOUT THE CITY YESTERDAY. END COMMENT

5. BECAUSE SO MANY POLICE WERE KILLED OR ARRESTEDBY THE COUP TROOPS, WE HAVE SEEN COLLEGE-AGE STUDENTS DIRECTING TRAFFIC UNCLASSIFIED

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AT VARIOUS CITY INTERSECTIONS.

6. THE TROOPS OUTSIDE OUR FRONT GATE PERMITTED THE AMBASSADOR'S CAR TO EXIT THIS EVENING. HE WAS ESCORTED TO HIS HOUSE BY AN AFGHAN MILITARY JEEP OCCUPIED BY WHAT APPEARED TO BE A COUP OFFICIAL IN AN AIR FORCE UNIFORM. AS THE CONVOY PASSED THROUGH THE STREETS OF SHA-I-NAU, THE AIR FORCE OFFICER WAS CHEERED BY CIVILIANS STANDING ALONG THE ROUTE.

7. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE "COLONEL ASLAM WATANJAR," REPORTED EARLIER TO BE THE COUP LEADER, MIGHT ACTUALLY BE COLONEL ASLAM WATANYAR, WHO MIGHT ALSO BE KNOWN AS SALIM ZURMATI (I.E., FROM ZURMAT, A VILLAGE IN THE PUSHTUN PROVINCE OF PAKTIA). THE NEW REGIME'S SPOKESMAN, COLONEL ABDUL QADIR MIGHT ALSO HAVE THE SAME TRIBAL SURNAME OF ZURMATI. WE ARE TRYING TO CONFIRM THIS INFORMATION. ELIOT

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